Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 00782 140858Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 CPR-01 CU-04 CA-01 VO-05 PPT-01 /031 W

-----098274 140902Z /10

P 140824Z MAR 78 FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4109

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CVIS, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET REJECTION FSIO HOWARD DANIEL'S REQUEST

FOR TRIP TO KAUNAS

- 1. LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON DIP AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE L.A.
 TSVETKOV TELEPHONED FSIO HOWARD DANIEL AND INFORMED HIM
 THAT THE VILNIUS/KAUNAS/VILNIUS PORTION OF THE TRIP ON
 MARCH 19 DANIEL WAS SCHEDULED TO MAKE TO RIGA, VILNIUS,
 AND KAUNAS WITH THE PRO ARTE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WAS NOT
 REGISTERED. THE REFUSAL APPLIED ONLY TO FSIO DANIEL
 WHO WAS ADVISED BY DIP AGENCY TO APPLY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY
 OFFICIALS OF THE "SOVEREIGN" LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC FOR HELP.
 BEFORE PROTEST COULD BE MADE DIP AGENCY CLOSED FOR
 BUSINESS FOR THE DAY AND IT WAS DECIDED FOR DANIEL TO
 BEGIN TRIP AS SCHEDULED ON SUNDAY, MARCH 12 PENDING
 RESOLUTION QUESTION KAUNAS PORTION OF TRIP.
- 2. AT RECEPTION FOR PRO ARTE GROUP ON SATURDAY EVENING MARCH 11, DPO RUECKERT RAISED QUESTION OF KAUNAS TRIP REJECTION WITH DIP AGENCY REP BATURIN. BATURIN TOLD RUECKERT NOTHING MORE COULD BE DONE BY LENINGRAD DIP AGENCY AT THIS TIME BUT THAT IN FUTURE REQUESTS FOR REGISTRATION OF SUCH TRIPS ALL PERTINENT DETAILS--SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS FACT THAT DANIEL WAS TO ACCOMPANY PRO ARTE GROUP--BE INCLUDED WITH REQUEST. DURING TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN CONOFF AND BATURIN ON MONDAY, MARCH 13, BATURIN REITERATED THIS POSITION. HE SAID SUCH INFORMATION MIGHT BE CONVEYED WITH THE TRAVEL NOTE ITSELF, SEPARATELY, OR EVEN ORALLY. WHEN CONOFF POINTED OUT THAT IN ANY CASE, KAUNAS HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN OPEN

CITY PER SOVIET NOTE OF JANUARY 4, 1978. BATURIN
COUNTERED BY SAYING FONMIN NOTE STATES THAT SUCH CITIES
HAVE BEEN OPENED TO TRAVEL BY "TOURISTS AND SPECIALISTS"
BATURIN HAD EARLIER JUSTIFIED REJECTION OF DANIEL'S
REQUEST BY NOTING THAT KAUNAS IS NOT IN CONGEN'S DISTRICT
AND THAT TRAVEL TO SUCH OUT OF CONSULAR DISTRICT CITIES
IS NORMALLY GRANTED ONLY BY EXCEPTION TO CONGEN PERSONNEL.
BATURIN ADDED TODAY THAT DIP AGENCY WOULD REFER THE
"MATERIALS" TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF LITHUANIA SINCE
THE LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC TOO HAS "RIGHTS" IN THE QUESTION
APART FROM THE ALL-UNION RESPONSIBILITY EXERCISED BY THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE SOVIET UNION. BATURIN STATED
THAT IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE CONGEN TO SUBMIT
ANOTHER TRAVEL NOTE.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED RAISE MATTER OF DANIEL'S KAUNAS TRIP WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY MOSCOW. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO NOTE RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATION OF NEW TRAVEL RULES AS WELL AS SOVIET ATTITUDE TO OUT OF DISTRICT TRAVEL FOR FUTURE REFERENCE IN HANDLING CONGEN SAN FRANCISCO AND SOVIET EMBASSY TRAVEL REQUESTS. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, PROVINCE, MUSIC, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL HARASSMENT, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 14 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LENING00782
Document Source: Corporate Unique ID-

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780112-0955 Format: TEL

From: LENINGRAD **Handling Restrictions:**

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780372/aaaacigr.tel

Line Count: 83 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: a6ebf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 08 sep 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3342615 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: SOVIET REJECTION FSIO HOWARD DANIEL\'S REQUEST FOR TRIP TO KAUNAS

TAGS: CVIS, PINT, OTRA, UR, US, CSCE, PRO ARTE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, (DANIEL, HOWARD)
To: MOSCOW STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a6ebf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014